



# Recent policy developments in the EU related to circular product design

**WTO Committee on Trade and Environment  
Environment Week  
EU Side Event on 19 October 2022**

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# The context



## Inefficient use of resources

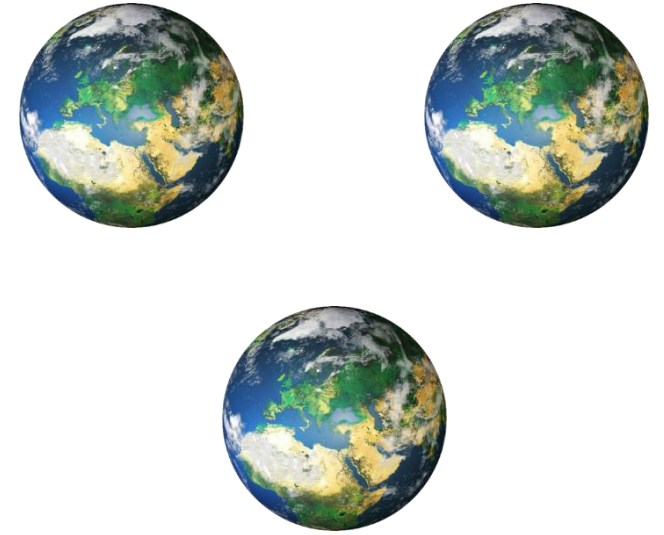
- Over 90% of **biodiversity loss** and **water stress**, 50% of **climate change** and 30% of **health impacts** are due to the extraction and processing of **material resources**
- **Waste generation** set to increase by 70% by 2050

(International Resource Panel, 2019)



## Planetary boundaries exceeded

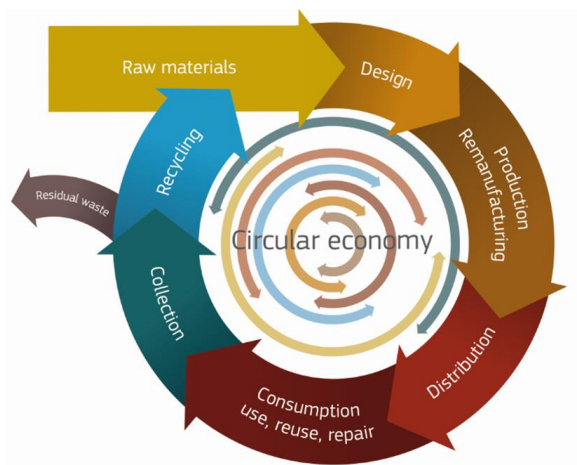
- EU has less than 10% of world population, yet its **consumption-based impacts are close to or exceed boundaries** for climate change, particulate matter, land use, eutrophication, freshwater, and resource use (Sala et al., 2020)



## We have only one planet...

- Yet by 2050, the world will be consuming as if there were three

# The Circular Economy



An economy where the value of products, materials and resources is **maintained** in the economy for as long as possible, and the generation of waste **minimised**

**Circular Economy  
Package**  
of 30 March 2022



Proposal for an **Ecodesign for  
Sustainable Products Regulation**  
(ESPR)

# How will ESPR work?

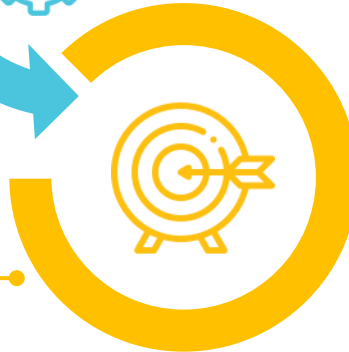
## Building on the existing Ecodesign Directive

Key features  
of Ecodesign  
Directive  
approach  
maintained

Framework legislation



Product-specific measures  
based on  
detailed impact assessment



Regularly updated  
**multiannual working  
plans** setting out priorities



# Key product aspects under ESPR

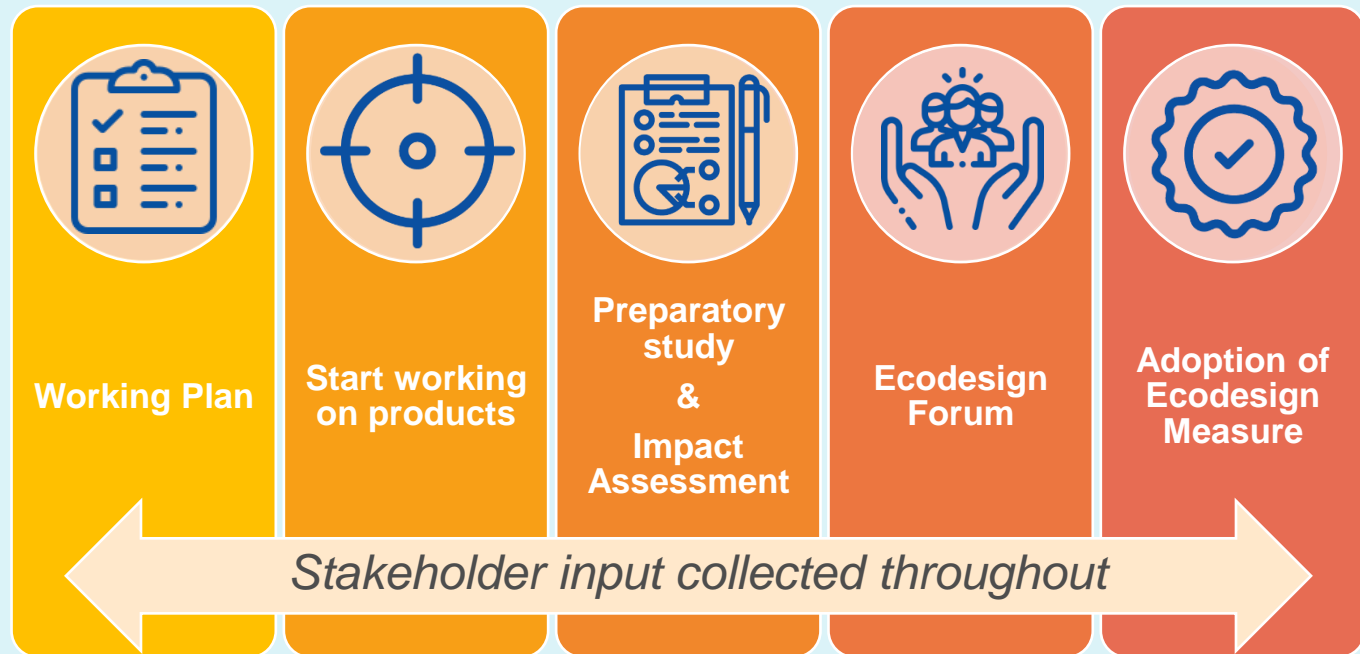
- Durability
- Reliability
- Reusability
- Upgradability
- Reparability
- Possibility of maintenance and refurbishment
- Presence of substances of concern
- Energy use or energy efficiency
- Resource use or resource efficiency
- Recycled content
- Possibility of remanufacturing and recycling
- Possibility of recovery of materials
- Environmental impacts, including carbon and environmental footprint
- Expected generation of waste materials

# Process under ESPR

**ESPR =  
framework  
legislation**

*i.e. does not set  
specific measures.  
Rather, it enables  
their later adoption*

## Improved process for adoption of new Ecodesign measures





# Digital Product Passport (DPP)

- Structured **collection of product data** with agreed ownership and access rights conveyed through **unique identifier**
- **Decentralised system**
- **Data** on sustainability, environmental impact, circularity, substances of concern, value retention for reuse/remanufacturing/recycling

# Fifth meeting of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-5, Nairobi, 28 February-2 March 2022)



- ❖ ***Resolution 5/11 'Enhancing circular economy as a contribution to achieving sustainable consumption and production'***
  - Invites UN MS to integrate CE approaches into national and regional strategies and action plans, incl. in MEAs
  - Invites UN MS to take measures, in cooperation with the private sector, to **enhance the design of products**, taking into account life-cycle assessments, to favour product lifetime extension, repair, re-use and easier recycling
  - Invites MS, relevant organizations and networks to cooperate in sharing and discussing best practices regarding relevant **product information along value chains**
  - Recognizes the importance of inclusive multilateral and multi-stakeholder **dialogues** on SCP, RE and CE to promote sustainable development





# International aspects

- Rules will be **applicable to all products placed on the EU market**, whether produced in the EU or imported.
- **Wide consultation of stakeholders** foreseen during preparatory phase of all measures
- **Impacts on third countries and on international trade** to be examined in impact assessments preceding adoption of all measures
- **Consultation of WTO** under the TBT procedure before adoption of all measures
- **Public consultation** on what the new product priorities under ESPR should be: by end 2022
- Indicative timeline for **first measures under ESPR**: 2024 (tbc pending outcome of negotiation process)

# Thank you



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